

History of the Adopt a School Partnership of Longview

300 W. Cotton St. | [Click here for map](#) [1]

Our Beginning:

In late 1996, Partners in Prevention (formerly the Longview Drug Task Force), under the direction of Alice Day, began searching for new ways to increase the involvement of the business and faith communities in creating a safe, healthy environment for the children of Longview. Also in 1996, the Longview Independent School District was looking for ways to increase parent involvement in their schools. The two organizations decided to collaborate and invited Pine Tree Independent School District to join them.

An advisory group of business, faith and school representatives began meetings with Partners in Prevention, including City of Longview staff, in February 1997 to design a program, using an Adopt A School program in Austin, Texas as a model. Partners in Prevention would supply staff and sponsor the initiative in collaboration with the school districts. The advisory group hoped that all three school districts in the city of Longview (Longview, Pine Tree and Spring Hill) would be part of the program. In April, Spring Hill ISD was invited and agreed to participate. The group decided the purpose of Adopt A School would be to benefit all students and schools, regardless of district or achievement.

Although the school districts were asked to create wish lists of their primary needs, adopters would be able contribute to the school(s) of their choice in any manner agreeable to both the school and the adopter. The Adopt A School Partnership of Longview (ASPL) hoped to unify the community by increasing the cooperation between school districts and provide more avenues for the citizens of Longview to give young people what they needed for successful growth and development. A permanent ASPL Steering Council was organized to work with ASPL original staff, Lyndell McAllister (business community) and Nancy Lucenay (faith community), in overseeing the progress of Adopt A School Partnership of Longview. The Council was composed of representatives from each of the three districts as well as both the business and faith communities.

By August 1997, ASPL was ready to begin enrolling charter partners. During the first year, thirty-three businesses and eight churches adopted schools through Adopt A School Partnership of Longview. By the end of year three, ASPL had recruited seventy-nine adopters for the schools of Longview, Pine Tree and Spring Hill.

Founding co-chair Rev. J. D. Palmer wisely stated that, "Adopt A School Partnership of Longview brings the community together to work toward a common goal for the good of the whole. When the children win, we all win."

Today:

While the original school and City staff have changed, the need for school district adoptions has continued. Today the Adopt A School program is facilitated by the City of Longview's Volunteer Center, with Mary Jane Burnett as Volunteer Relations Coordinator. The committee co-chairs are Pine Tree Assistant Superintendent James Skeeler and East Texas Review Publisher Joycelyne Fadojutimi.

For more information call: 903-237-1390 | [Contact Us](#) [2]

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[1]

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[2] <http://volunteer.longviewtexas.gov/services-contact#Volunteer@LongviewTexas.gov>